News Releases
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador - Canada

Newfoundland Labrador

Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs
Executive Council
March 14, 2008

Ministers Express Condolences on Passing of Mary Mae Osmond

The Honourable Patty Pottle, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and the Honourable Joan Burke, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, express their deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the late Mary Mae Osmond, who passed away yesterday (Thursday, March 13), at the Heath Sciences Centre in St. John's.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of such a valued and respected leader," said Minister Pottle. "Throughout her life, Mary Mae worked tirelessly for the betterment of Aboriginal women and her community. Mary Mae was a well respected leader in her community and an important role model for Innu women and Aboriginal women in Newfoundland and Labrador."

Ms. Osmond was the Director of Social Health of the Sheshatshiu Band Council. In this role, she supported Innu women, children and families. She was a strong supporter of Aboriginal women's issues and attended national and provincial Aboriginal women's and health conferences to advance issues for Innu women.

"Mary Mae Osmond was a strong advocate for Aboriginal women and issues impacting their communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador," said Minister Burke. "She was a leader, role model and friend to many women in our province and across the country. I had the pleasure of knowing Mary Mae personally and will never forget her passion to advance the status of Aboriginal women. In recognition of her leadership and commitment to improving the lives of Aboriginal women and their children, a dedication to Mary Mae and her tremendous contributions will be held at all future Aboriginal women's conferences."

Ms. Osmond was very involved in the Provincial Government's mandate to improve the well being of Aboriginal women and their families. She was a member of the provincial delegation at the Aboriginal Health Summit in Vancouver in 2006, and she attended both previous Aboriginal women's conferences.

-30-

Media contacts:

John Tompkins
Director of Communications
Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs
709-729-1674, 728-7762
jtompkins@gov.nl.ca

Michelle Hynes-Dawson
Communications and Policy Analyst
Women's Policy Office
709-729-6225, 693-2125
michellehynes@gov.nl.ca

2007 03 14 4:00 p.m.

All material copyright the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. No unauthorized copying or redeployment permitted. The Government assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of any material deployed on an unauthorized server.
Disclaimer/Copyright/Privacy Statement